

WMD Radiological/Nuclear Course for HazMat Technicians (PER-241)

Course Description

A U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) training course delivered by the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Nevada Site Office (DOE/NNSA/NSO), National Center for Exercise Excellence (NCEE), at the Nevada Test Site (NTS), a member of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC) through Bechtel Nevada (BN), Counter Terrorism Operations Support (CTOS) Program.

Course Description:

The course prepares the hazardous materials (HazMat) technician to respond to an incident involving a radiological or nuclear weapon of mass destruction (WMD), such as a Radiological Dispersal Device (RDD, “Dirty Bomb”) or an Improvised Nuclear Device (IND). The course begins by giving the student a conscious awareness of the fundamentals of radiation, health effects, recognition, and terrorist use of radiation and radiological material. HazMat technicians are given hands-on experience with radiation fields while learning the basic operation of radiation detectors and dosimeters. Students are taught how to use these instruments to conduct surveys of personnel, vehicles, facilities, and outdoor areas. Hands-on activities blend cognitive knowledge of radiation and instruments with survey techniques used in detecting the presence of radiation, locating radioactive material, and measuring levels of radiation and radiological contamination. Once individual and small team skills are mastered, HazMat technicians are taught operational considerations when responding to a radiological WMD incident. These considerations include operating in high radiation areas, limiting responder radiation doses, and rescuing contaminated victims. Students form operational teams that deal with cadre-evaluated realistic drills involving likely terrorist use of radiological material. The course culminates with an evaluation exercise requiring student teams, under a unified command, to respond to a terrorist attack on a facility, disbursing radiological material.

Course Length:

32 hours (four 8-hour days)

Prerequisites:

Students must be State-Certified Hazardous Materials Technicians.

Target Audience/Disciplines:

The target audience includes students with technician-level training, representing the following disciplines:

- Law Enforcement
- Emergency Medical Services
- Emergency Management Agency
- Fire Service
- Hazardous Materials (HazMat)
- Public Works
- Governmental Administrative
- Public Safety Communications

Target Audience/Disciplines (Cont.):

- Health Care
- Public Health
- Other Skilled Support Personnel that provide immediate support services during prevention, response, and recovery operations.

Certificate:

Certificates of Completion are issued by the DOE/NNSA, National Center for Exercise Excellence, Nevada Test Site. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are awarded by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV).

Eligibility:

This course is primarily intended for responders trained to the HazMat Technician Level. It is the responsibility of the jurisdiction to select course participants.

Course Delivery:

Delivered at the U.S. Department of Energy, National Center for Exercise Excellence, Nevada Test Site.

Cost:

All training and course materials are free to eligible participants.

Contact:

In order to attend a training class delivered by one of the ODP training partners, a request must be provided to the designated training point of contact. For the Training Coordinator in your area, please contact the ODP Help Line at: 800-368-6498.

For more specific information regarding this course, please contact the following:

Registration Desk

Bechtel Nevada

Counter Terrorism Operations Support (CTOS) Program
DOE/NNSA/NSO

P. O. Box 98521, M/S CF126

Las Vegas, NV 89193-8521

(Tel) 702-295-3224

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More information can be found at the DOE/NNSA/NSO
Web site: www.nv.doe.gov/combatingterrorism.